

From: [Durant, Jennah](#)
To: [Miller, Garyg](#); [Leos, Valmichael](#)
Cc: [Sanchez, Carlos](#)
Subject: RE: San Jacinto questions from Reuters
Date: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 11:55:42 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks!

From: Miller, Garyg
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 11:53 AM
To: Durant, Jennah; Leos, Valmichael
Cc: Sanchez, Carlos
Subject: RE: San Jacinto questions from Reuters

Jennah,

1. NOAA estimates that sea level at the northern Texas coast is rising at a rate of about 0.2-feet in 10-years, which is approximately the amount of time for the pits to be flooded by the San Jacinto River. The amount of subsidence at the site area has been about 10-feet due to ground water pumping, so sea level rise probably did not have any significant contribution to the river inundating part of the waste pits at the site.
2. Sampling by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in the 2002 to 2004 timeframe was done as part of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) dioxin study for the San Jacinto River. Sediment, water, fish, and crab samples were collected. These samples showed elevated levels of dioxin in the vicinity of the waste impoundments (near the I-10 bridge). As a result of this sampling, and previous sampling in 1995, and a statement that Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) had recently become aware of information "suggesting" the existence of the waste pits, TPWD referred the site to TCEQ in 2005 to investigate and remediate if necessary.

Gary Miller
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From: Durant, Jennah
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 2:16 PM
To: Leos, Valmichael; Miller, Garyg
Cc: Sanchez, Carlos
Subject: RE: San Jacinto questions from Reuters

Any more input on these follow-up questions?

From: Durant, Jennah
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 1:52 PM
To: Leos, Valmichael; Miller, Garyg

Cc: Sanchez, Carlos

Subject: RE: San Jacinto questions from Reuters

Some follow-up questions from the same reporter. For the first question, I'm guessing we can't show a direct influence of sea level rise affecting the site and that groundwater drainage had the most direct impact.

1. Two quick followups. 1 Did sea level rise contribute anything to the problem? Land subsidence and sea level rise are usually added up into "relative sea level rise" total, which has been estimated at 8 inches SLR globally plus whatever land subsidence in a local area for the net effect on land/sea(tide) balance.
2. Did a discovery of dioxins downstream lead to the investigation and discovery of the waste pit?

From: Leos, Valmichael

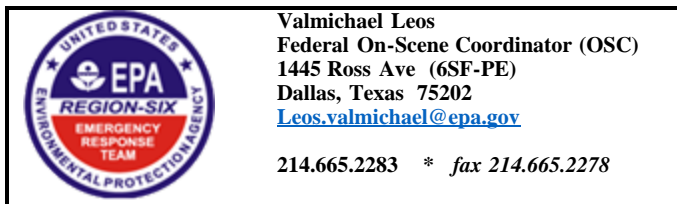
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:18 AM

To: Miller, Garyg; Durant, Jennah

Cc: Sanchez, Carlos

Subject: RE: San Jacinto questions from Reuters

Perfect.



From: Miller, Garyg

Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:06 AM

To: Durant, Jennah

Cc: Leos, Valmichael; Sanchez, Carlos

Subject: RE: San Jacinto questions from Reuters

Jennah,

1. Yes, the San Jacinto site is tidally influenced; the tides there normally vary about 2 feet.
2. The waste pits were originally located in a marsh area to the west of the San Jacinto River. However, over the years ground water pumping has resulted in land subsidence until the river began washing over a portion of the northern waste pits and exposing the dioxin containing material to the river. The purpose of the removal completed in 2011 was to isolate the waste material from the river and prevent continuing releases, as well as to prevent direct exposure to persons who were using the site for fishing, etc. Portions of the

northern waste pits are under water now, so that will make any cleanup more complicated and expensive, although certainly doable.

Valmichael – anything to add/modify?

Regards,

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From: Durant, Jennah
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 4:34 PM
To: Leos, Valmichael; Miller, Garyg
Subject: San Jacinto questions from Reuters

Hi Gary and Valmichael,

I got a couple questions from a reporter about the waste pits site. I think the answer to the first one is "yes," but I'm not sure how to answer the second one. Can you help?

1. Is the San Jacinto River Waste Pit in a tidally influenced area?
2. Has sea-level rise or land subsidence contributed to the problem or the amount of leakage there or complicated the repair work?

Thanks,
Jennah Durant
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